

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 /082 W

-----060355Z 013628 /11

R 051025Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2563

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS DURBAN 0267

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: NATAL MULTIRACIAL INITIATIVE--SITREP

REF: DURBAN 255

1. SUMMARY: NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL PASSED MOTION MAY 4 ASKING PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO RECEIVE A NATAL DEPUTATION TO DISCUSS CONFERRAL ON PROVINCES OF MORE EXTENSIVE POWERS TO DEAL WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING RACIAL ONES. THIS NATAL MOTION NOTABLY CALLED FOR MORE POWERS FOR ALL S.A. PROVINCIAL COUNCILS, NOT JUST NATAL. NATIONALIST OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION, THOUGH OVERCOME IN VOTE IN THE UNITED PARTY-DOMINATED PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, DOUBTLESS PRESAGES SAG REJECTION OF THE NATAL INITIATIVE. OTHER REACTION SO FAR HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. MOTION PASSED BY NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MAY 4 REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER VORSTER QTE TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE GROWING AND URGENT DEMAND FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION BETWEEN ALL RACES, HE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER AND INITIATE MEANINGFUL CHANGES CONFERRING MORE EXTENSIVE POWERS ON ALL PROVINCIAL COUNCILS SO AS TO MAKE MOR EFFICIENT AND SYMPATHETIC GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE IN OUR MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY. END QTE. MOTION ALSO

ASKED THAT PRIME MINISTER RECEIVE A DEPUTATION OF NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

3. NATIONALIST PARTY MEMBERS OF UP-DOMINATED NATAL COUNCIL AT FIRST ARGUED ONLY WEAKLY AGAINST MOTION. HOWEVER, AFTER HURRIED CONSULTATION WITH CAPE TOWN ONE NAT COUNCILLOR (WILLIE HEINE OF ESHOWE) STATED WHAT IS BELIEVED TO FORECAST THE OFFICIAL SAG POSITION. HEINE STATED THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES FOR SOUTH AFRICA WERE BLACK MAJORITY RULE OR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF A MIDDLE GROUND AS ADVOCATED BY THE NATAL UNITED PARTY. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE LAY IN THE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH OF THE NATIONAL PARTY, SAID HEINE, ADDING THAT THE UP APPROACH EQUATED TO THE FIRST STEP TOWARD BLACK MAJORITY RULE. FRANK MARTIN, UP LEADER IN THE NATAL COUNCIL AND AN AUTHOR OF THE INITIATIVE, EXPRESSED DIS-APPOINTMENT AT THE NATIONALIST POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT NATAL WAS NOT ASKING TO DETERMINE ITS OWN FUTURE AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT BUT THAT PERMISSION WAS BEING SOUGHT TO HOLD AN ALL-RACE CONFERENCE AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL. MARTIN ALSO WARNED THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER REJECTED NATAL'S REQUEST HE MIGHT BE THROWING AWAY THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH BLACKS WHO STILL WERE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE IN A TURNHALLE-TYPE ENVIRONMENT.

4. MARTIN'S INITIATIVE HAS DRAWN FAVORABLE EDITORIAL SUPPORT FROM DURBAN AND PIETERMARITZBURG NEWSPAPERS. THE NATAL PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN PETER RUTSCH HAS EXPRESSED PRP SUPPORT AS HAS MR. MARTIN'S PROGREF OPPONENT IN LAST PROVINCIAL ELECTION (MRS. ELSE SCHREINER). DR. ALPHEUS ZULU, UNCLASSIFIED

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FORMER NATAL CHAIRMAN OF INKATHA NOW ACTIVE IN THE MOVEMENT'S PIETERMARITZBURG BRANCH, ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT.FARBER

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